

through 19 are now believed to be in condition for final allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

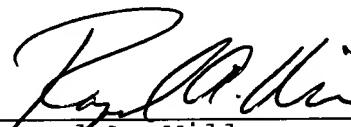
Claims 1 through 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,366,738 to Rork et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,273,875 to Griffith. As was discussed and agreed to during the interview, this rejection is inappropriate because even if it is assumed that the combination of Rork et al. and Griffith is proper and teaches the combination of cardiovascular drugs such as nitroglycerin and antihypercholesterolemic agents such as simvastatin, pravastatin, and lovastatin, this teaching does not in any way suggest or motivate one skilled in the art to combine arginine or its biological equivalent with an antihypercholesterolemic drug. As was discussed in the interview, the compounds cited by the Examiner are both agonist. Thus, the combination suggested by the Examiner would still likely result in the depletion of L-arginine. Accordingly, as agreed to during the interview, the rejection of claims 1 through 18 should be withdrawn. Notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Finally, U.S. Patent No. 5,543,430 which was discussed in the interview is cited in the Information Disclosure Statement that is to be filed within the next two weeks. As discussed during the interview, the claims as amended are allowable over this reference.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented above as well as the discussions during the interview of March 5, 1998, it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for final allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. If there are any additional questions, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Finally, as requested by the Examiner, enclosed is an Associate Power of Attorney specifically appointing the undersigned to prosecute the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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